

Mission UpReach Newsletter

Dormitory rehab begins

By: Phil Waldron, CEO

Last month we shared with you the goal for our 2023 Spring campaign to raise \$100,000 before June 1st in order to finish the construction on our Moses Project dormitory building. Thankfully the pledges have begun to trickle in. We are grateful to those who are motivated to give to this project since it helps our young charges who participate in the Moses Project program.

One family from Colorado has not only pledged the money to purchase paint and materials for painting the dormitories, but they have also scheduled to come and do a big part of the work themselves. This type of “donation” is a double blessing. It benefits both those who receive the help, i.e., the boys, as well as benefiting the “donors” because

they get to spend time with the boys all week long while they are here painting. What a blessing to get to see firsthand the positive impact that their sacrifice and generosity has had!

This spring campaign drive is one that has a far-reaching impact too. Multiple generations of boys will be blessed by participating in the program and having the experience of living in an environment that is clean, hygienic, and aesthetically beautiful. As I think about this particular aspect of the campaign, I’m reminded of a comment that was made to me by Stan Stout, who served as Director of the Ciudad de Niños in Ensenada, México for more than 20 years. Stan told me back in 1999, when we were forming an orphanage

in Cozumel, México (the Ciudad de Ángeles) that he wanted all of the children in his program to have the opportunity to live in an environment with floor tile, painted walls, good lighting, etc. because even though many of the children didn’t come from homes with all of those things; “once they enjoyed the benefit of living in an ordered, clean and aesthetically appointed home, they would never want to go back to squalor.” He stated that he was convinced that giving the children in the Ciudad de Niños an opportunity to

live in such good conditions was part of helping them become free of the poverty trap that so many generations repeat.

And just to clarify, the level of finishes that we are talking about is not the “Taj Mahal.” In fact, it is not even up to the standards that you and I as North Americans would consider an acceptable level of finishes, (no hot

water in the showers or bathroom sinks for instance). We are talking paint, ceiling insulation, ceiling instead of exposed rafters, fixing broken light fixtures and outlets, and ceramic tile throughout the building instead of bare concrete which is harder to maintain clean.

Your assistance with this particular need is one that will make a tangible difference almost immediately. Please consider giving something now or pledging something at a future date that will help us finish our building. When you give or pledge something towards this effort, please let me know by emailing me at: phil.w@missionupreach.org





ESPERO celebrates the arrival of summer



The ESPERO School for Deaf Adults has now made it a tradition to host a Celebration of Summer event each year. In Honduras, the time around Easter is considered summer vacation, so this celebration is held then. It's exciting to see the students put their new skills into action by giving presentations in LESHO (Honduran sign language), to see the students show pride in their displayed work of the first quarter of the school year, and to have fun with prepared games and a clown show. Not to mention the meal that was put together by students and their families to share together. Please continue to pray for their school year as ESPERO seeks to meet the varied educational and social needs of its students.

MUR Employee Spotlight

Meet **Alex!** Alexander Monterroza (photo far right), a 25 year old from El Salvador, got to know Mission UpReach for the first time in June of last year. He had come to spend time with friends and Mission employees, Richar and Kevin, who work on the church planting team. All of the social good that he witnessed from Mission UpReach on that trip impacted him greatly, and we're excited to announce that he has now joined that team himself and is passionate about the opportunity to serve many people. As the Spiritual Development Coordinator for the Moses Project, Alex is motivated to promote the development of Christian values in the boys at the Project. The boys are diving deep learning about the character of God and learning how to tell others about Him. Alex also spends a devotional time in the evening with the boys at the Project and he said it's encouraging to see how it motivates them—how excited and happy they are to learn more about God. The spiritual development activities that the boys participate in also unify them as a support system and family.

Alex says, "The goal of the Moses Project has

impacted me greatly. They are transforming lives, training them in various areas, and then the boys are returning to their communities as leaders, where they can be useful and serve others."

Francis loves the roll he is in now of leading as a supervisor and being an example for the teens in the Project. Francis looks forward to his professional formation to develop a future quite different from the one he would have had without being able to continue his education and grow as a person through his experience at the Moses Project.





Country View Family Farms

The leadership team from Country View Family Farms out of Hatfield, PA gave of their time and energy to help us with a wonderful project at one of the schools in which our DESEO team works. This school was in desperate need of working bathrooms, new electrical wiring, and the replacement of a wall that was collapsing. Making the bathrooms functional began with digging a huge hole for a cesspool. Before the cesspool, the waste was running across the school yard. The electrical wiring of the school was hanging low enough to be a danger for the children, not to mention it was incorrectly wired to begin with. Finally, the very large retaining wall was beginning to collapse onto the adjacent property. The work was arduous and challenging. Our DESEO team spent the week working alongside the team providing more hands and feet for the work. The local community was supportive and extremely

appreciative. The children from the school along with their parents shared words of gratitude at the end of the week, expressing how hopeless they felt in their own ability to provide the funds for such improvements. Country View Family Farms along with several of their suppliers donated the money needed for the project.



Do you want to know how we made the connection with this wonderful business? Donna went to high school with the wife of the President of County View Family Farms. Lisa and Donna had not seen each other in 30 years but had reconnected via Facebook a few years back. Lisa

saw what Mission UpReach was doing in Honduras and suggested to her husband that it might be a mission they could get involved with. It was a blessing for Lisa and Donna to reconnect for what will hopefully be a long relationship of collaboration in doing God's work in Honduras.



A note from Donna

Phil and I spent this past month in the U.S. visiting churches, giving reports, and visiting many of our generous donors and friends. We drove over 5,000 miles and

covered a lot of ground. It is always a blessing to get to know new donors in person who have entrusted their investment in the Kingdom with us. And it's always wonderful to see our "old" friends and visit churches who support the work of MUR. We also love recruiting new teams to come to Honduras for a visit. We met with a group of Christian medical students from Texas Christian University (TCU) who are looking for places to serve. Additionally, we had the privilege of meeting with the President and Provost of the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) to firm up our agreement to open a fixed base clinic in Santa Rosa de Copán. VCOM will be sending students to complete rotations in our clinic and

the local public hospital. We look forward to that relationship because it will be a blessing to our community by providing basic medical care to many in need.

The focus of this trip was "business", but we did get to spend a few days with two of our three daughters. Our daughter, Laura, hosted us in Chattanooga for Easter weekend and treated us like royalty. Seeing her thrive in her adulthood brings us great joy. We also got to spend a few days with our Hayley (Harrison's wife) who is our forever daughter. Together we selected the design for Harrison's tombstone, something that no parent ever wants to do. Being with Hayley always brings us joy. And of course, we had brief visits with our living parents. Sometimes, as we face the reality that our parents are aging and time is short, we face guilt and sadness over the distance. There's no real consolation to find in such situations. We just trust that we are where God has called us to be and will be here until He directs us elsewhere. As usual, we covet your prayers.

2023 Brigade Season

Brad Russell Group	February 25-March 4	Medical
Belton Church of Christ	March 11-18	VBS
Country View Family Farms/	March 25-April 1	Construction
Clemens Food Group		
Robison Family	May 27-June 3	Construction
Blacksburg Church	June 3-10	Construction
Southside Church, KY	June 10-17	Medical
Southside Church, TX	June 17-24	Medical
Disciple Trips team	June 24-July 1	Medical
Snellville Church of Christ	July 1-8	VBS
VCOM	July 8-15	Medical
Pine Tree Church of Christ	July 22-29	Medical/VBS

Mission UpReach Board

Scott Bedichek, Ft. Worth, TX	Jeff Simpson, White Oak, TX
Phil Berry, Coral Springs, FL	Adam Spencer, Longview, TX
Kory Cummings, Ft. Worth, TX	Donna Waldron, Santa Rosa de Copán
Wayne Kellis, Gilbert, SC	Phil Waldron, Santa Rosa de Copán
Dorris Gulley Shelton, Dunwoody, GA	

Other Giving

Mission UpReach is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. We can assist you to designate MUR in a corporations' matching gifts program, or giving through a United Way campaign, or as you prepare wills for your estate.

Please contact us:

Our mailing address is as follows:

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3221 Dundee Road
Longview, TX 75604

Please send all checks, donations and correspondence to this address.

You can correspond directly with

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